

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FDRE-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

INSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 EB-07 OPR-02 SY-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 SSO-00

/080 W

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P R 050526Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4453

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DEPT PASS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER INS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SREF CVIS PINS HK VS

SUBJ: PARAMETERS FOR HONG KONG ROLE IN ASSISTING

VIET-NAM REFUGEES

1. WITH NUMBEROUS SIGNS THAT HONG KONG INVOLVEMENT WITH VIETNAM REFUGEES IS RAPIDLY INCREASING, USCONGEN OFFICERS AND KEY HONG KONG GOVERNMENT (HKG) OFFICIAL S MET APRIL 4 TO DISCUSS MAJOR CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS THAT ARE LIKELY TO DEVELOP. HKG OFFICIALS (PARTICULARLY POLAD AND DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION) MADE CLEAR THAT WHILE HKG SHARES HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, COLONY'S ROLE MUST BE LIMITED AND SUBJECT TO DEFINITE CONSTRAINTS.

2. ENUMERATING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS WHICH IMPELLED HKG LAST NOVEMBER TO INITIATE REPATRIATION TO PRC OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS POLICY, HKG OFFICIALS ASSERTED COLONY WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO ADMIT GROUPS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IF THERE WS EVEN SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH REFUGEES AFTER ARRIVAL MIGHT BE STRANDED IN HONG KONG

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WITHOUT ASSURED ONWARD DESTINATION.

THEY RECALLED DEPORTATION OF 118 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES  
OF CHINESE EXTRACTION LAST YEAR WHICH ILLUSTRATED  
HK DETERMINATION NOT TO ESTABLISH  
PRECEDENT BY WHICH HK WITH ITS  
VERY LIMITED AREA MIGHT BE VIEWED AS WAY STATION OR  
CLEARING HOUSE FOR REFUGEES FROM SURROUNDING REGION.  
THEY ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT OVERSEAS CHINESE  
RATHER THAN ETHNIC POPULATION FROM VARIOUS SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN COUNTRIES MAY SEEK TO DESCEND EN MASSE ON HK.

3. HKG OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY CITED IN CONFIDENCE HKG  
POLITICAL CONCERN TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT  
CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT COLONY COULD BECOME MIDDLE GROUND  
FOR INTERCHANGE OF PRC AND TAIWAN POPULATIONS. ON BOTH  
PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL GROUNDS THEY STRESSED NECESSITY TO  
KEEP PRESENT DISCUSSIONS SECRET FROM ALL THIRD PARTIES,  
SUCH AS VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

4. CONGEN OFFICERS POINTED OUT THAT NUMBER OF US COMPANIES  
AND PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH US GROUPS HERE AND ELSEWHERE  
HAD INDICATED PLANS AND INTENTIONS TO BRING OUT VIETNAMESE  
EMPLOYEES AND OTHER DISTRESSED GROUPS FROM VIET-NAM.  
IN NUMBER OF SUCH CASES THERE HAS BEEN LACK OF SPECIFIC  
INFORMATION RE PROCEDURES BEING FOLLOWED OR ULTIMATE  
DESTINATION. IF SITUATION IN VIET-NAM WORSENS, SNOW-  
BALLING EFFECT OF SUCH EFFORTS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS COULD BE  
ANTICIPATED. CONGEN OFFICERS THEN REVIEWED EXISTING  
REQUIREMENTS ON US SIDE  
THAT NORMALLY MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BEFORE  
REFUGEES COULD BE ADMITTED TO US. (THERE AS AGREEMENT ON  
BOTH HKG AND US SIDE IN THIS REGARD THAT VIET-NAM ORPHANS DO  
NOT POSE PROBLEMS). THESE REFUGEE PROCESSING PROCEDURES  
AT PRESENT WOULD REQUIRE MINIMUM OF 40 TO 60 DAYS TO COMPLETE.  
HKG OFFICIALS REITERATED MAIN POINT OF CONCERN AS SET FORTH  
ABOVE. WHILE THEY DID NOT SPECIFY THAT 40 TO 60-DAY  
PERIOD WOULD BE TOO LONG, OR GIVE MAXIMUM TIME PERIOD WHICH  
WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HKG, THEY STRESSED LIMITED NATURE  
OF THEIR FACILITIES AND NEED TO EXPEDITE TRANSIT ASAP.

5. AS RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS, CONGEN RECOMMENDS THAT ADVANCE  
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PREPARATIONS BE TAKEN IN WASHINGTON NOW WHICH WOULD  
FACILITATE PROCESSING AND ENTRY OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES  
VIA HONG KONG TO US SHOULD CONTINGENCY ARISE. FIRST WE  
NEED DETERMINATION FROM WASHINGTON INS/STTE WHETHER LOCAL  
CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM APPLIED TO VIET-NAM AND CAMBODIAN  
REFUGEES (I.E., DETERMINATION WHETHER SUCH REFUGEES WERE  
"FLEEING FROM COMMUNIST OR COMMUNIST -DOMINATED COUNTRY  
OR AREA"). IF LOCAL PROGRAM DOES

APPLY, THEN INS STAFFING HERE MUST BE AUGMENTED AS PRESENT BACKLOG OR PRC APPLICATIONS NUMBER MORE THAN 2000. INS HERE BELIEVES AT LEAST TWO US IMMIGRATION OFFICERS PLUS FIVE ADDITIONAL LOCAL EMPLOYEES WOULD BE NEEDED TO HANDLE ANY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES. WE WOULD ALSO NEED US VOLUNTARY AGENCY ASSURANCES AND PROCESSING ASSISTANCE.

6. ANOTHER APPROACH WOULD BE USE OF SECTION 212 (D) (5) PAROLE AUTHORITY OF I&N ACT. IN THAT CASE, SINCE HKG NOT INCLINED TO ACCEPT ANY INDOCHINA REGUEES FOR EXTENDED PERIOD OF PROCESSING HERE, ESTABLISHMENT OF REGUEEE PROCESSING CENTERS IN GUAM AND HAWAII AS WAS DONE WITH HUNGARIAN AND CUBAN REFUGEES IN PAST WOULD BE ESSENTIAL.

7. WITH REGARD TO INTRA-COMPANY TRANSFEREES (L-I NON-IMMIGRANTS, I.E. ALIEN EMPLOYEES OF US COMPANIES ABROAD WISHING TO ENTER US), DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONTACT INS WASHINGTON TO AMEND 8 CFR 214.2 (L) (1) FRANTING CONCURRENT JURISDICTION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS TO INS IN HONG KONG SO THAT PETITIONS MAY BE FILED AND APPROVED HERE.

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## Message Attributes

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